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Addendum

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 31. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

1. At its 36th meeting, on 25 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 31, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/54/6 (Sect. 31)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the document.

Discussion

3. An expression of support was made for the programme of work proposed for the biennium 2000–2001 under section 31. The view was expressed that periodic evaluation of the physical conditions of the United Nations facilities and their timely maintenance and renovation was essential in order to provide for the normal working conditions of delegations and staff. Concern was expressed that delay in the renovation and repair of deteriorating facilities, structures and systems, and a reduction in the level of resources experienced in the past under this budget section, had substantial implications for the Organization and appeared to be wasteful in the long run. The view was expressed that the programme narrative should have indicated, with respect to individual projects proposed under the programme, possible implications for the Organization in cases where implementation of those projects could be delayed owing to insufficient funding or reduction of resources.

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4. The need for a long-term programme for capital improvements and upgrading of the facilities was emphasized. In this context, the view was expressed that the capital master plan, along with proposals for its implementation, should be submitted by the Secretariat to the General Assembly for its review.

5. The view was expressed that priority should be given to the multi-year abatement programme for asbestos-containing materials during the biennium 2000–2001.

6. The view was expressed that the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions were the proper organs for review of the proposed programme budget under this budget section.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative proposed under section 31, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.